

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 260940Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8706
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1056

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US CT
SUBJ: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH CAE FONMIN

REF: BANGUI 0898

1. AS A FOLLOW ON TO MY MAY 5 MEETING WITH FONMIN GBEZERA BRIA (REFTEL) I CALLED ON HIM MAY 25 FOR A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON OF US FOREIGN POLICY. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO LEAVE WITH HIM THE TEXTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, OF HIS SPEECH AT NOTRE DAME AND OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VIENNA PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. I SAID THAT ONE OF THE STRONGEST IMPRESSIONS WHICH I BROUGHT AWAY FROM THE ABIDJAN MEETING OF AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WAS THE DEPTH OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO THE RESOLUTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. I SAID I WAS EQUALLY IMPRESSED BY THE COMMITMENT OF ADMINISTRATION LEADERS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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OF THE CONTINENT AND TO THE GLOBAL DEFENSE OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. I WAS CONFIDENT THEY WOULD REMAIN BASIC ELEMENTS OF US FOREIGN POLICY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

3. THE FORNMIN ASKED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF SEVERAL RECENT ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS PARTICULARLY AS THEY RELATED TO THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET AND CUBAN FORCES IN AFRICA. HE SAID HE WAS

INTERESTED IN OUR GENERAL POSTURE TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION, IN OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENTS IN FRANCE AND ITALY, AND IN OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE RECENT ISRAELI ELECTIONS AND THEIR LIKELY IMPACT ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. FROM HIS REMARKS IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GOCAE, A SELF-CONSCIOUSLY CONSERVATIVE AND ANTI-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT, IS CONCERNED THAT OUR DE-EMPHASIS OF RIVALRY WITH THE SOVIET UNION WILL RESULT IN A LESSENING OF SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. GBEZERA COMMENTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THE GOCAE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ITS RELATIONS WITH THE WEST IN GENERAL AND TO THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR.

4. IN RESPONDING TO HIS CONCERNS, I SAID THAT THE NEW EMPHASIS IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY DID NOT IMPLY ANY DEVALUING OF OUR RELATIONS WITH TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. WE DID NOT THINK, HOWEVER, THAT ALL WORLD PROBLEMS SHOULD BE JUDGED IN TERMS OF COMPETITION WITH AND CONTAINMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION. WHEREAS IN THE 1950S WE HAD BEEN CRITICAL OF THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT PURSUED BY MANY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, WE NOW REALIZE THAT THERE WAS AMPLE SCOPE FOR THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THE THIRD WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN MEETING THE URGENT DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THESE COUNTRIES. I NOTED THAT AN OPENNESS TO THE SOVIET UNION HAD BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL FEATURE OF EMPEROR BOKASSA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND WE HAD NEVER FELT THAT HIS EFFORTS TO PURSUE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AFFECTED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. OUR POLICY HAD BEEN AND REMAINED TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE GOCAE TO HELP MEET THE URGENT DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY AND TO WORK IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN.

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5. WITH REGARD TO ISRAEL, I SAID WE HAD CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM COMMENTING ON THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION. IT WAS OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FORWARD WITH THE SEARCH FOR A JUST PEACE BASED ON SECURE BORDERS FOR ISRAEL AND THE CREATION OF SOME FORM OF PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. OUR EFFORTS WOULD NOT ABATE BECAUSE OF A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL.

6. SIMILARLY WITH REGARD TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN FRANCE AND ITALY WE DID NOT FEEL IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO COMMENT ON POSSIBLE RESULTS OF FUTURE ELECTIONS. WHILE WE WOULD NATURALLY BE CONCERNED AT SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENTS, FOR US TO SPELL OUT OUR CONCERN IN PUBLIC WOULD PROBABLY ONLY REBOUND TO THE BENEFIT OF THE LEFT AND WOULD BE SEEN AS INTERFERENCE IN THESE COUNTRIES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS. GBEZERA ALSO ASKED ABOUT OUR VIEWS OF THE LEFTWARD TREND IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. I RESPONDED THAT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY AFTER LONG YEARS OF AUTHORITARIAN RULE. FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST, THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION IN BOTH

COUNTRIES SEEMED POSITIVE.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW A NUMBER OF WORLD PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO THE CAE. HE SAID THAT HIS CONCERNS ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY WERE CALMED AND HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A CONTINUATION OF THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I ASSURED HIM I SHARED HIS HOPE.
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